

Message Text

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21-12
ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJ: JDA DEFENSE OBJECTIVES

SUMMARY: JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN KUBO REPORTEDLY MADE UNPRECEDENTEDLY CLEAR STATEMENT OF JAPANESE DEFENSE OBJECTIVES IN DIET. ACCORDING JDA, KUBO STATEMENT WAS OFF-THE-CUFF AND PRESS REPORTING INACCURATE; KUBO TO CLARIFY REMARKS WITH EMBOFFS FOLLOWING END OF DIET SESSION SEPTEMBER 27. END SUMMARY.

1. MAINICHI AND SANKEI COVERED TESTIMONY BY JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN TAKUYA KUBO DURING DELIBERATIONS ON TWO JDA BILLS BEFORE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 1973.

2. NEWS ACCOUNTS WERE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY, BUT SEEMED TO

INDICATE KUBO MADE UNUSUALLY CLEAR STATEMENT OF GOJ DEFENSE OBJECTIVES. KUBO REPORTEDLY STATED JAPAN MUST HAVE CAPABILITY

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TO DEFEND HOME ISLANDS AGAINST INVASION FOR MINIMUM PERIOD

OF ONE TO SIX MONTHS UNTIL QUOTE FULL-SCALE DISPATCH OF (US)
REINFORCEMENTS. END QUOTE.

3. IN ADDITION KUBO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT WITH REGARD TO SEA AND AIR DEFENSE, OUT OF HYOPHETICAL ATTACKING FORCE OF 700-800 ATTACKING PLANES JASDAF COULD PROBABLY ONLY SHOOT DOWN 30 PERCENT, WHILE MSDF COULD BE COUNTED TO ONLY TO OFFER PROTECTION FOR FROM ONE-SEVENTH TO ONE-SIXTH OF JAPAN'S MARITIME COMMERCE IN WATERS NEAR JAPAN. SCOPE OF MARITIME DEFENSE FOR JAPANESE SEA TRANSPORTATION ROUTES WAS THEREFORE LIMITED TO 100 NAUTICAL MILES ON THE JAPAN SEA SIDE AND 200 NAUTICAL MILES ON THE PACIFIC SIDE. GOAL FOR DEFENSE OF SPECIFIC VESSELS ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO 1,000 NAUTICAL MILES FROM JAPAN.

4. EMBOFF CONTACTED JDA COUNSELLOR FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS, KEIICHI TACHIBANA, FOR CLARIFICATION OF ABOVE REMARKS. ACCORDING TACHIBANA, KUBO'S REMARKS WERE MADE INFORMALLY AND OFF-THE-CUFF. FURTHERMORE, THEY WERE INACCURATELY REPORTED IN PRESS. (FOR EXAMPLE, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF SIX MONTHS FIGURE). FOLLOWING END OF DIET SESSION KUBO WILL MEET WITH EMBOFFS TO DISCUSS JDA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON RESULTS OF THAT MEETING.
SHOESMITH

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